Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00 PM-03
NSC-05 NSCE-00 ARAE-00 INR-05 IO-06 SSO-00 /040 W
----------302019Z 035809 /23
O 301933Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2808

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 12232

LIMDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS DOD FOR DIA

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS:PINT, EC, PE, BL, CI
SUBJECT: WAR FEARS IN THE ANDES

1. NAVY CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL LE MAY CALLED IN DCM AND DATT OSTENSIBLY TO SHARE NAVY'S VIEWS ON SOUTH AFRICA. AFTER 45 MINUTES LE MAY FINALLY GOT TO THE POINT STATING THAT HE WAS CERTAIN THE RUSSIANS WOULD TEST PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER SOME PLACE IN THE WORLD WITH THE MOST LIKELY TROUBLE SPOTS BEING SOUTH AFRICA, YUGOSLAVIA OR PERU.

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE PERUVIAN SITUATION LE MAY SAID HE WAS MOST CONCERNED BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUING RUSSIAN AND CUBAN INFLUENCE. THE RUSSIANS HAD JUST OFF-LOADED A SHIP FULL OF 400 "ADVISERS" AND EVEN NORTH KOREANS WERE ENTERING THE COUNTRY (VIA PANAMA) TO TEACH TERRORISM. HE UNDERLINED THAT PERU'S MILITARY STRENGTH WAS OVERWHELMING AND THAT HE EXPECTED THAT THE PERUVIANS WOULD IN FACT TRY A CROSS BORDER INCURSION ON JANUARY 20 WHILE THE WORLD WAS OCCUPIED WITH THE CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATIONS IN THE US.

3. DCM RESPONDED THAT AS USUAL SOUTH AMERICAN CAPITALS
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WERE FILLED WITH REPORTS AND RUMORS, THAT USG HAD THE SITUATION UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW AND THAT OUR BEST JUDGEMENT WAS THAT THE CHANCES OF IMMEDIATE HOSTILITIES WERE NOT GREAT. LE MAY RESPONDED THAT IN ANY CASE HE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF HIS CONCERNS WERE TRANSMITTED TO WASHINGTON. HE ADDED THAT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES HE THOUGHT IT IMPERATIVE THAT THE EMBARGO ON

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ARMS SALES TO CHILE BE INTERPRETED TO ALLOW THE SALE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RADAR EQUIPMENT TO CHILE.

4. COMMENT. LE MAY'S JITTERY REACTION, COMBINED WITH THE MOREL MISSION, INDICATES THAT THE GOC IS MORE CONCERNED THAN INITIAL ARMY REPORTS SHOWDED (IR 6 817 0300 76).
LE MAY COULD BE EXAGGERATING IN HOPES OF GENERATING A US CAUTIONARY STATEMENT TO PERU OR TO OBTAIN AT LEAST ASSURANCES FROM US INTELLIGENCE.
POPPER

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